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Johnson, a great classical scholar himself, take more kindly to a man who seems very like him in many ways? The only way to answer these questions satisfactorily would be to read Monboddo's works through carefully, judging them by their intrinsic merit alone; and this Mr. Clodd has not done. Perhaps nobody except William Knight¹ has gone through the twelve volumes of his two principal works for over a century. As to his connection with science, a paper by May M. Jarvis in the *Transactions of the Texas Academy of Science* for 1907 gives a modern scientist's opinion, based upon parts of Monboddo's *Antient Metaphysics*. Here is an opportunity to rediscover and map a lost mind (for Knight's treatment, though good, is not adequate); Mr. Clodd's paper only feebly scratches the surface.

It is difficult for a critic to censure a book which has given him pleasure. Many of these essays have real charm, though to a reader of Boswell they offer little that is new. They are pleasantly readable, written with the assurance of men used to speak with authority; but we have the right to expect something a little less superficial from a society bearing the name of Johnson. The multitude of chatty books nowadays crowds real authority off our library shelves; and this, when all is said, is only another chatty book about Johnson.

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TOUTES CHOSSES

An interesting instance of the attraction of an adjective to an adjacent noun that it does not really modify is found in the common expression "toutes choses," where this expression is in apparent apposition to a preceding series of nouns.¹ A good example occurs in Renan, *Fragments philosophiques*, p. 322 (1876): "Le devoir, le dévouement, le sacrifice, toutes choses dont l'histoire est pleine, sont inexplicables sans Dieu." It is evident that the sense here is: "Le devoir, le dévouement, le sacrifice, [qui sont] tous

¹ *Monboddo and his Contemporaries*, London, 1901.

² Professor H. Carrington Lancaster points out that this construction is found with other nouns than *choses*, and furnishes the following case: "l'éducation qu'il a reçue, l'organisation politique, l'état social, toutes causes de son malheur," H. Gaillard, *Emile Augier et la comédie sociale*, p. 133. (1910). So far as my personal observation has extended, this construction, in contemporary French, is more common with *choses* than with any other noun.

[des] choses etc." *Toutes*—logically *tous*—is really a pronoun in apposition to the preceding nouns, but by the propinquity of *choses* masquerades as an adjective modifying the following noun. In English we should find: "Duty, devotion, sacrifice, all of them things, etc." A comparable case is "de guerre lasse" for "las de guerre."

Further instances are: "hasard, ni fortune, ni sort; Toutes choses très incertaines," La Fontaine, *Fables*, II, 13. "Prend une main, un bras, lève un coin du mouchoir; | Toutes sottises dont la belle Se défend avec grand respect," *ibid.*, *id.*, IV, 4. (Quoted in Littré, *tout*, 11^o. It is to be noted that here *toutes* is in apposition with a series of clauses, rather than nouns.) "Le mélange du grotesque et du tragique . . . l'émotion . . . le goût de la féerie . . . la trivialité du langage . . . le réel . . . l'idéal . . . toutes choses qui ne se présentent pas à l'esprit dans la patrie de Racine et de Voltaire," Doudan, *Mélanges et lettres*, I, p. 63 (c. 1828). "Elle s'est approvisionnée . . . de gants, de papier rose, . . . d'essences fines . . . toutes choses fort utiles sans doute, mais qui le sont moins qu'un dîner," Feuillet, *Roman d'un jeune homme pauvre*, (1858; p. 13 of Heath ed.). "La parole, le mouvement, la vie, toutes choses etc.," Halévy, *l'Abbé Constantin*, ch. 3. "Mais il n'était pas en moi d'avoir un cheval, un uniforme, un régiment et des ennemis, toutes choses essentielles à la gloire militaire," A. France, *Le livre de mon ami* (1885; p. 36 of Holt ed.). "de la terre et de ses fruits, de l'industrie, du négoce, des richesses amassées, . . . toutes choses qui, bonnes ou mauvaises, ne relèvent ni du prince ni des officiers de la couronne," *Id.*, *Les opinions de M. Jérôme Coignard*, p. 214 (1893).²

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A NOTE ON BIRÉ'S *Victor Hugo après 1830*

This letter, of interest to students of Hugo, is self-explanatory. I find the original, together with the envelope, pasted in volume I of Edmond Biré's *Victor Hugo après 1830* (Paris, Librairie Académique Didier, Perrin et Cie, Libraires-Editeurs, 35, Quai des Grands-Augustins 35, 1891). The book, found in the library of the University of Texas, was owned formerly, no doubt, by M. Macé; a supposition which would seem to explain the presence of

²L. Clédât, in *Les Emplois de Tout* (*Rev. de phil. fran.*, XIII, p. 46), discusses a closely analogous construction, where, however, the noun is a predicative nominative after *être*. He states, furthermore, that in modern French the noun cannot be in the plural. The latest examples he gives are from *Tartuffe*, II, 4 and 151-152. (both quoted in Littré, *tout*, 12^o).